

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Baggett, Dean, Cavallini and Caisley

Members Absent: Member Hoselton

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer; Ms. Christine Brauer, Member, Regional Planning Commission; Mr. Chris Entler, Entler Excavating; Mr. Mick Owen, Entler Excavating; Mr. Paul Krueger

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the January 2, 2007 meeting.

Motion by Caisley/Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes from the January 2, 2007 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked the Committee to review the bills from December, 2006 and January 2007. He advised that Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, would address any questions that the Committee may have.

Motion by Caisley/Baggett to recommend payment of the December, 2006 and the January, 2007 bills as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action on the agenda is consideration of the letting results from a January 25<sup>th</sup> equipment letting. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the proposed Resolution and the bid tab from the letting can be found in the Committee's packet. Mr. Mitchell went through the equipment purchases with the Committee. They are as follows:

- 2007 770D John Deere motor grader with the tradeoff an older motor grader for a net price of \$48,500.00.
- 2007 Caterpillar 430E backhoe loader with the trade of an older backhoe for a net price of \$42,650.00.
- Purchase two new Peterbuilt's with Heil Beds with the trade of one older unit for a net price of \$191,382.00.

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- Purchase two new Wiss Wings from Wis Miller for Evans Road Equipment for \$21,980.00.
- Purchase one new 2008 Ford F-250 Service Body Truck from Dennison Ford for an outright price of \$37,398.00.
- Purchase one new 2008 Ford F-350 Dump Truck from Dennison Ford with trade for a net price of \$35,498.00.

Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that these items were all previously approved in the FY 2007 Adopted Budget.

Mr. Caisley commented that he was interested in seeing the snow plow wings more closely. Mr. Mitchell responded that he would be happy to give Mr. Caisley a tour of the Highway Department and show him the equipment any time.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he recommends approval of the award of the aforementioned bids.

Motion by Cavallini/Caisley to recommend approval of the Letting Results from a January 25, 2007 Equipment Letting.  
Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item is consideration of the letting results from a January 31<sup>st</sup> Letting for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) maintenance and construction sections and 2007 non-MFT sections.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the first item which was bid was cold-mix. The bid came in 29.31% over the engineer's estimate. This item will have to be re-bid at another date.

McLean County Asphalt's bid for Sylvax (a different type of cold mix) came in slightly under the engineer's estimate and the Highway Department recommends approval of that bid.

The next section is the bids for excavation, asphalt and bridge work on the Danvers-Carlock Road. Entler Excavating was the low bidder at \$4,230,342.00. The engineer's estimate for this project was \$5,045,539.00. Entler's estimate came in at 16% under the engineer's estimate. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project is a very large project and has been discussed by the Committee for several years. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Chris Entler and Mr. Mick Owen from Entler Excavating are in attendance and would be happy to address any questions that the Committee may have.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Entler previously has done work for the Highway Department and the Highway Department has been very satisfied with their work. He added that Entler Excavating is prequalified by the Illinois Department of Transportation to perform earth excavation, storm sewer, pipe culvert and aggregate. They are not prequalified to perform asphalt work, so they have subcontracted that portion of the project.

Mr. Cavallini asked when this work will begin. Mr. Mitchell responded when the weather breaks this spring.

\*\*Mr. Dean entered the Meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item on the bid tab is the 2007 non-MFT pipe culverts. Every year, bids are taken for pipe culverts that the Highway Department stocks or that are ordered for projects by the County or Townships. The bid establishes the unit price for the culverts. Contech was the low bidder at \$261,908.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends award of all bids from the January 31<sup>st</sup> letting.

Motion by Cavallini/Dean to recommend approval of the Letting Results from a January 31, 2007 letting for 2007 MFT Maintenance and Construction Sections and 2007 Non-MFT Section. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item on the agenda is a Resolution for Improvement for the intersection of Towanda-Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this Resolution is to appropriate \$150,000.00 to install traffic signals at this intersection. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends approval of this item.

Mr. Cavallini asked if \$150,000.00 is the shared cost between the County and the City of Bloomington. Mr. Mitchell responded that the cost is shared 50/50 with the City of Bloomington. The County is only appropriating their share.

Motion by Caisley/Dean to recommend approval of a Resolution for Improvement for the Intersection of Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item on the agenda is a Supplemental MFT Resolution for the Danvers-Carlock Road.

Mr. Mitchell explained that this is to appropriate \$800,000.00 from the MFT Fund and County Matching Fund for work to be done on the Danvers-Carlock Road. He stated that the Highway Department would recommend approval of this Resolution.

Motion by Baggett/Dean to recommend approval of a Supplemental MFT Resolution for the Danvers-Carlock Road. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the items for information to the Committee.

Mr. Mitchell updated the Committee on the project summary.

- The bridge replacement on Old Route 150 is complete. The final paperwork has been completed. This was an 80% Federal project with a 20% County match.
- The footings have been poured on the Kath Bridge on the Danvers-Carlock Road and the precast culverts have been delivered. The weather will need to improve before this project can move forward.
- The Peacock Bridge of the Stanford-McLean Road is complete. Final payment has not been made.
- The Fairfield Culvert on Holder Road is complete. Final payment has not been made.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the East Side Highway Steering Committee minutes have been provided to the Committee this morning. They were not received in time to be included in the packet. The East Side Highway Policy Committee, which includes Mr. Hoselton from the Transportation Committee, is scheduled to meet Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The consultants are starting to collect data and the first major public hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that this study was going to be done according to *Contact Sensitive Solutions (CSS)*. This CSS process will keep the public involved throughout the entire study.

Mr. Dean asked where the consultants are in the study process. Mr. Mitchell responded that they are in the midst of the stakeholder identification process. He noted that interested parties can be added or dropped from the list as needed.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that County Engineers, Township Highway Commissioners, and the Illinois Municipal League have joined together in promoting an 80,000 Pound Bill. There has been much discussion by the Farm

Bureau, the Mid-West Truckers and a dozen other groups over the years about opening all roads to 80,000 lbs. The County Engineers, Township Highway Commissioners, and the Illinois Municipal League have previously been very concerned about the resulting damage to the roads if the weight limit was increased. Consequently, the County Engineers, Township Highway Commissioners and the Illinois Municipal League have always opposed the 80,000 Pound Bills in the past. However, the groups have all gotten together and agreed upon an alternative proposal. The proposal is for a \$.06 increase in Motor Fuel Tax on all fuels sold in the state. The \$.06 would be split a third to the Road Districts, a third to Counties, and a third to Municipalities. The Road Districts and the Counties would get their share based upon mileage; municipalities would get their share based upon population. That money is intended to be spent only to upgrade the roads to 80,000 lbs. or to repair the damage that would be caused from the increased weight on the roads. Mr. Mitchell stated that the County would still retain the spring posting and bridges would still have to be posted.

Additionally, this proposed Bill would include the "Minnesota Weight Bill". This portion of the bill would allow police officers to go to a scale, and for two weeks after a load is weighed, issue a weight violation. This portion of the Bill has run into a lot of resistance.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the other part of the proposed bill would be to double the Township Bridge Program from \$15 million to \$30 million. That money comes out of the State Road Fund.

Mr. Baggett asked if there was another way to fund this Bill. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is open to suggestions. He informed the Committee that many different options have been explored, such as taxing bushels of corn and or soybeans, but no one can agree. It was felt that a fuel tax was the fairest tax, because it is a "user" tax.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he will keep the Committee updated with the progress of this proposed Bill.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he had planned to hold a Stand-Up Committee Meeting to approve letting results from a February 14<sup>th</sup> letting. However, there is now a State requirement to wait eight days after any letting for possible protests. Therefore, that letting will have to be held over until next month's Committee meeting.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt  
Recording Secretary

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